

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 18744 041714Z

67

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18744

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, GW, IR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IRANIAN ECONOMIC-FINANCE MINISTER

ANSARI

1. IRANIAN ECONOMIC/FINANCE MINISTER ANSARI VISITED BONN EARLIER THIS WEEK AND IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH, HE HAD A ONE HOUR 45 MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE DISCUSSION WITH SCHMIDT WAS THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE.

2. ACCORDING TO A CHANCELLORY OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, SCHMIDT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO ANSARI. THE GISCARD PROPOSAL HAD SOME MERIT TO IT BUT HE SHOULD HAVE CONSULTED WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AHEAD OF TIME. A CONFERENCE IS DEFINITELY REQUIRED AND SHOULD COMMENCE NO LATER
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PAGE 02 BONN 18744 041714Z

THAN MID-YEAR. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE IN 2 OR 3

STAGES (TODAY'S PRESS REFERRED TO A CSCE-TYPE CONFERENCE). THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE INFORMAL AND INCLUDE BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS. "THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES AND THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT CLOUT ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA." IN RESPONSE TO SCHMIDT'S PROBING, ANSARI REFUSED TO EXPRESS A VIEW AS TO WHO MIGHT ATTEND THE MEETING OR WHO MIGHT HOST IT.

3. SCHMIDT STRESSED THE NEED FOR A MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE IN ORDER TO SET THE PROPER FRAMEWORK FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AND HE NOTED THAT OPEC COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ATMOSPHERE BY REDUCING SOME OF THE EXISTING UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING FUTURE OIL PRICES. ANSARI AGREED AND ADDED THAT IF OPEC ACCEPTED IRAN'S SINGLE PRICE PROPOSAL IT WOULD GREATLY REDUCE THIS UNCERTAINTY. THE CHANCELLOR RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT INDEXATION WOULD ONLY COMPOUND PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

4. WITH REGARD TO OTHER TOPICS SCHMIDT PRESENTED HIS USUAL PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ANSARI WHILE AGREEING, ARGUED THAT OIL PRODUCERS WERE NOT AT FAULT. ANSARI PRESENTED SCHMIDT WITH A WRITTEN INVITATION TO VISIT TEHRAN. SCHMIDT ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BUT NO DATE WAS SET. (OUR SOURCE SAID THE TRIP WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE NEXT SUMMER AT THE EARLIEST.)
CASH

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